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C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In order to better assist the Examiner with the prosecution of the case, the current pending claims have been included in their entirety for which reconsideration is requested.

1. **(Twice Amended)** A method for displaying characteristic aids in a display area, said method comprising the steps of:

displaying a user interface comprising at least one displayable object within a display area controlled by a computer system;

monitoring a transparency associated with said at least one displayable object; [and]

responsive to an initiating event, placing a graphical transparency characteristic aid displaying a percentage indicating said monitored transparency of said at least one displayable object within said display area, such that said at least one displayable object is not obscured by said graphical transparency characteristic aid;

wherein placing said graphical transparency characteristic aid further comprises:

determining a graphical output format for said graphical transparency characteristic aid;

adjusting a transparency of said graphical transparency characteristic aid according to user transparency preferences;

determining a display position for said graphical transparency characteristic aid; and

adjusting said transparency of said graphical transparency characteristic aid according to said display position.

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2. (Original) The method for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

responding to an initiating event, wherein said initiating event is at least one of a cursor placement, an occurrence of a user-defined event, and a user input.

3. Cancelled.

4. (Original) The method for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 1, said step of monitoring a transparency further comprising the step of:

monitoring a plurality of factors that determine said transparency associated with said at least one displayable object.

5. (Previously Amended) The method for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

placing said graphical transparency characteristic aid to maximize space remaining in said display area.

6. (Previously Amended) The method for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

initializing said graphical transparency characteristic aid, wherein said graphical transparency characteristic aid comprises at least one from among text, graphics, video, and audio.

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7. **(Twice Amended)** A system for displaying characteristic aids in a display area, said system comprising:

a graphical user interface controlled by a computer system;

means for displaying at least one displayable object within said graphical user interface;

means for monitoring a transparency associated with said at least one displayable object;
[and]

means responsive to an initiating event, for placing a graphical transparency characteristic aid displaying a percentage indicating said monitored transparency of said at least one displayable object within said graphical user interface;

wherein said means for placing said graphical transparency characteristic aid further comprise:

means for determining a graphical output format for said graphical transparency characteristic aid;

means for adjusting a transparency of said graphical transparency characteristic aid according to user transparency preferences;

means for determining a display position for said graphical transparency characteristic aid; and

means for adjusting said transparency of said graphical transparency characteristic aid according to said display position.

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8. (Original) The system for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 7, said system further comprising:

means for responding to an initiating event, wherein said initiating event is at least one of a cursor placement, an occurrence of a user-defined event, and a user input.

9. Cancelled.

10. (Original) The system for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 7, said means for monitoring a transparency further comprising:

means for monitoring a plurality of factors that determine said transparency associated with said at least one displayable object.

11. (Previously Amended) The system for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 7, said system further comprising:

means for placing said graphical transparency characteristic aid to maximize space remaining in a display area of said graphical user interface.

12. (Previously Amended) The system for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 7, said system further comprising:

means for initializing said graphical transparency characteristic aid, wherein said transparency characteristic aid comprises at least one from among text, graphics, video, and audio.

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13. (Twice Amended) A program for displaying characteristic aids in a display area, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for enabling display of at least one displayable object within a user interface;

means for monitoring a transparency associated with said at least one displayable object;
[and]

means for controlling placement of a graphical transparency characteristic aid displaying a percentage indicating said monitored transparency of said at least one displayable object within said user interface;

wherein said means for controlling placement of said graphical transparency characteristic aid further comprise:

means for determining a graphical output format for said graphical transparency characteristic aid;

means for adjusting a transparency of said graphical transparency characteristic aid according to user transparency preferences;

means for determining a display position for said graphical transparency characteristic aid; and

means for adjusting said transparency of said graphical transparency characteristic aid according to said display position.

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14. **(Previously Amended)** The program for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 13, said program further comprising:

means for detecting an initiating event, wherein said initiating event is at least one of a cursor placement, an occurrence of a user-defined event, and a user input; and

means for initiating said placement of said graphical transparency characteristic aid following detection of said initiating event.

15. Cancelled.

16. **(Original)** The program for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 13, said program further comprising:

means for monitoring a plurality of factors that determine said transparency associated with said at least one displayable object.

17. **(Previously Amended)** The program for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 13, said program further comprising:

means for controlling placement of said graphical transparency characteristic aid to maximize space remaining in a display area within said user interface.

18. **(Previously Amended)** The program for displaying characteristic aids in accordance with claim 13, said program further comprising:

means for initializing said graphical transparency characteristic aid, wherein said transparency characteristic aid comprises at least one from among text, graphics, video, and audio.